

The Good 351

Chapter 351: Set Off (2)

The man's voice turned chilly as he spoke. "For the sake of the mission, please let go of your prejudice against each other and cooperate well with one another. I will give everyone a satisfactory remuneration once this mission is completed."

All the leaders indicated that they would fully cooperate with the other groups. No one would make life difficult when money was involved, even if they had disagreements before that.

When he was satisfied with the preparation, the client led everyone out of the city. However, he did not say where they were headed, and he only told everyone to follow them in their carriages.

All the mercenaries traveled in their respective carriages when they left the Black City.

Horses and carriages were the mercenaries' basic equipment as they often travel to faraway places.

Shen Yanxiao rode in the same carriage as Du Lang and Evil Wolf. The Cave Wolves Mercenary Group had thirteen wagons. Three of those were to carry their food and daily necessities, and the other ten was for their transportation. Except for Du Lang's carriage, the other nine carriages had about six to seven people in it. One of them would drive the wagon.

Five of their members also rode on horses, and they traveled in between those carriages.

The mercenaries' carriages were not an item of luxury, but they were sturdy. Therefore, the seats were rather bumpy as they journeyed on the road.

Shen Yanxiao was not a spoiled brat, and so she did not mind the condition of the carriage. She sat at the back and eavesdropped on Du Lang and Evil Wolf's conversation.

"Leader, why do you think the client won't tell us where we're going? Why did they only tell us to follow their lead?" Evil Wolf was curious. They did not know their destination, and thus, they would not know the length of the journey. The aimlessness of the trip made him feel uneasy.

Du Lang leaned against the carriage with his arms crossed. Then he looked at the scenery outside the window with an air of indifference before he said, "The Phoenix is a rare magical beast, one that none had seen in centuries. Perhaps they had paid a lot of money to find its location. They did not tell us because they did not want anyone to leak that information to other people outside this group."

The Phoenix was so rare that news about its lair would probably attract the attention of tens of thousands of people who would snatch it at any given opportunity.

Other than the advanced-level experts, there were still many other powerful beings in the Longxuan Empire. If they had wanted to grab the Phoenix, no one could probably stop them.

Evil Wolf frowned. Du Lang's explanation was quite reasonable. Even though their group had signed a nondisclosure agreement with the client, there might be unscrupulous characters amongst the large

group of mercenaries who would not honor the deal. If they knew the exact location of the Phoenix's nest, they might even sell that information to the highest bidder.

Most of the mercenaries were loyal and righteous men. However, one could not discount the probability of a few bad apples in the mix.

"Leader, what do you think of our odds in this mission?" Evil Wolf asked.

No one had seen a Phoenix, and at that moment, they only knew that their target was an eighth-ranked, high-level magical beast. There was no guarantee that they would succeed even though they had a lot of people with them.

Du Lang replied, "If the information that the client had given us was accurate, then we should have enough manpower to take the Phoenix down."

Chapter 352: Set Off (3)

Shen Yanxiao listened attentively as she sat quietly in the back. Du Lang and Evil Wolf did not exclude her deliberately from the conversation, and she deduced that Du Lang did not fully trust the information that the client had provided them. There was also a possibility that he had his own doubts on whether the Phoenix was really an eighth-rank magical beast.

He seemed like a smart person, and Shen Yanxiao praised him for that.

She knew about the mistake with the Phoenix's rank because of the information that Xiu had given her. However, Du Lang was utterly unaware of the same information, and he had based his suspicions on his keen senses and vigilance.

As she had expected, Du Lang was not a simple person. That was made more transparent with his position as the leader of the top mercenary group in the Black City.

"Oh yes, how should I address you?" Du Lang suddenly asked Shen Yanxiao.

Shen Yanxiao quirked her eyebrows and casually said, "You can call Huo Xiao." The downside to having multiple personalities is the fact that she had to come with a lot of names. Shen Yanxiao had never been good at that, so the simplest solution was to use names that revolved around her real one¹

Shen Jue, Xiao Yan... Huo Yan was yet another name to be added to the pile. Shen Yanxiao thought that her identity was rather complicated.

1Du Lang asked, "Huo Xiao, what do you think about the information that the client had provided about the Phoenix?"

Shen Yanxiao was surprised by Du Lang's question. It seemed like Du Lang really did have his doubts about the Phoenix's rank, and he wanted to get some information from her.

However...

"I'm not as knowledgeable about the Phoenix as you think I do. I only know about some of their habits, but not much about their ranks at all. After all, they have not been seen for centuries." Shen Yanxiao

decided to go with an ambiguous answer. She was only there for the Flame Grass, so she did not need to reveal any information about the Phoenix. If she were to disclose the real information about the Phoenix's rank to Du Lang, he would probably find an excuse to remove the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group from the mission.

After all, no matter how powerful the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group was, they were still not comparable to magical beasts that were as strong as mythical ones.

If that were to happen, then she was the prime example of someone who had attempted to steal a chicken but lost the rice that she required as bait.

Du Lang did not give her an immediate response when he heard what she had said. He only gave her a thoughtful glance.

He had a constant suspicion in the back of his mind that Huo Xiao had kept some information from him, and it was probably related to the Phoenix. However, Huo Xiao was not a member of his group. Instead, he was only a customer that he had invited along for the mission. Even if he had his doubts, he could not force Huo Xiao to reveal it.

Evil Wolf threw a strange glance at his leader from his seat at the side. Du Lang had been very polite to their temporary member. Even the six wolves had never received the same treatment from their leader. When did his iron-blooded leader gain a softer side?

The more he looked at them; the more Evil Wolf felt that Du Lang's attitude toward Shen Yanxiao was rather strange.

Could the little kid have some powerful background?

However, Evil Wolf could not see anything special about the dull little kid, no matter how he observed him. The kid's attire could be found in any random shop in the Black City, and there was absolutely nothing unique about them.

Except for the space ring on her finger, she had no other weapons or accessories on her. Coupled with her young age and frail physique, Evil Wolf did not have an optimistic impression about that temporary member.

Furthermore, how did he end up as the little kid's babysitter?!

Chapter 353: Mount Kuluo (1)

Evil Wolf got even more baffled as he continued to think about it. He had yet to have a conversation with Shen Yanxiao ever since she joined their Cave Wolves Mercenary Group. He still had some hesitance toward that dead weight.

However, had Du Lang actually asked the kid for some information on the Phoenix? What a joke! How would a kid like him know anything about that?

Since the kid was still so young, he had probably read some fairy tales somewhere and learned the name 'Phoenix' from the books.

"Huo Xiao, can you describe some of the Phoenix's habits? It might be able to help with our preparations for the mission," Du Lang made another attempt at the questions. He knew that Huo Xia had deliberately kept information from him. He had no choice but to try and fish the information from her.

Shen Yanxiao looked at Du Lang. She knew that he would look for other opportunities to ask her, even if she continued to keep her lips shut.

"The Phoenix is a fire-elemental magical beast, and they are good with fire magic. Their nests are usually built at places that brim with fire elements. As long as the territory includes the Phoenix's dwelling, then the temperature in the surrounding area would be higher than other places." Shen Yanxiao chose to disclose a few random and insignificant information to Du Lang.

"A place brimming with fire elements?" Du Lang narrowed his eyes. Shen Yanxiao's information proved useful to him. Even though the client had deliberately concealed the location of the nest, Du Lang could still conclude a few possible areas based on Shen Yanxiao's tips.

"Mount Kuluo is in the northeast direction of the Longxuan Empire. The fire elements there are pretty dense, and the temperature is much higher than in other places. The vegetations there are also mostly heat-resistant, like the Iron Tree and Fire Dusk Grass. Mid-level magical beasts often roam around the area, and so people rarely venture to that place. Based on your information about the Phoenix preferring to stay somewhere with the fire elements, then the only place that fits that requirement and remains closest to the Black City is Mount Kuluo."

Du Lang paused for a moment before he continued, "Mount Kuluo was one of the battlefields for the gods and the demons in wars of the past. The environment there had accumulated extremely strong fire elements due to the battles, and if humans were to stay there for a prolonged period, the fire elements would shatter their veins. That's why there are no cities nearby the mountain, and no one from the Black City would ever want to venture that far."

One could say that Mount Kuluo was one of the forbidden places in the Longxuan Empire.

Even though the last battle between the gods and the demons took place thousands of years ago, their magic left a lasting mark on the land. No life would grow in areas where those immortal beings clashed. Even vegetations with strong vitality could not survive there.

Time did not erase the memory of that disastrous battle from the mind of the humans. Instead, as time passed, forces with a long history that dated back to tens of thousands of years ago told stories about how two of the most powerful races in that world had clashed in a calamitous war on that land.

Countless demons fell as their purplish blood covered the earth while some of the celestial gods perished, and others lost their divine powers.

That was a history lesson that one would not be able to forget as it was the fiercest battle between the gods and the demons.

Chapter 354: Mount Kuluo (2)

Based on the information that Shen Yanxiao had provided, Du Lang deduced that they were headed toward Mount Kuluo. However, his expression had also subtly changed at the same time.

“Mount Kuluo... If that’s really where we’re headed, then it wouldn’t be a simple eighth-ranked magical beast,” Du Lang said with a heavy tone.

Shen Yanxiao was not familiar with the circumstances that surrounded Mount Kuluo. So when she saw Du Lang’s expression, she had to ask, “Is there a problem with Mount Kuluo?”

Du Lang looked at Shen Yanxiao, and he spoke with a slightly changed tone.

“The reason no one dared to go to Mount Kuluo is that other than the problem with the magical beasts and the fire elements, a huge group of demonic beasts also dwelled there.”

“Demonic beasts?” Shen Yanxiao was surprised by that information. Ever since her reincarnation, she had heard so much about the demonic beasts. Xiu had also gobbled hundreds of thousands of demonic cores. However, she had never seen any of the creatures that people had described as terrifying.

Du Lang nodded and said, “That’s right. The four empires in the Brilliance Continent had banded together in the past, but they only managed to clear four areas that were now designated as safe zones. They had removed countless demonic beasts, but some still managed to escape and hid deep in the mountains. Since no humans dared to stay on Mount Kuluo, it then became the playground for both magical and demonic beasts. In the past, a mercenary group with more than a hundred members accepted a mission to Mount Kuluo. Only about a dozen of them survived. The others were either killed by the magical beasts or eaten by the demonic ones.

A mercenary group with more than a hundred members?

Was that not equivalent to a mid-sized mercenary group?

A mid-sized group had gone on Mount Kuluo, but only a handful of survivors had managed to escape. One could easily see how dangerous the mission was.

“No wonder the client had to keep the destination a secret. Other than concealing the information about the Phoenix’s nest, they must have been afraid that the mercenary groups would reject the mission if they had known.” Shen Yanxiao touched her chin as her large round eyes narrowed. Based on what Du Lang had told her, she thought that Mount Kuluo was a rather dangerous place too. Other than the magical beasts, they also had to worry about the unpredictable demonic beasts that could kill them. Furthermore, there was also the Phoenix that was comparable to a mythical beast.

That place looked to be a survival challenge.

“Do you wish to back out from the mission?” Shen Yanxiao felt helpless when she saw Du Lang’s increasingly darkened expression. She thought that Du Lang would not have the chance to back out as long as she kept the Phoenix’s real rank a secret. However, she did not expect that he could make so many deductions based on so little information. He even knew that the destination was a perilous one. It looked like Du Lang might leave the mission early. If that were to happen, she would need to think of

another way to infiltrate into the other mercenary groups so that she could make use of that advantage to get the Flame Grass.

Du Lang kept his silence for a brief moment, and then he shook his head.

“The Cave Wolves Mercenary Group will not back out of any mission, and that is the principle of mercenary groups. Even though we know that it is a dangerous task, we will not violate the agreement. It concerns the honor of our group, and as long as we’ve accepted the mission, we will never back out from it!” Du Lang’s voice was deep, but his oddly strong and powerful words shocked her.

Chapter 355: Mount Kuluo (3)

He had known about the dangers that they might encounter in the road ahead. However, he did not intend to run away from any threat.

Someone like him was a true mercenary, indeed!

Once they had accepted a mission, they would give their utmost to complete it, even if they had to pay a high price.

Shen Yanxiao sighed at Du Lang’s statement. She noticed that Evil Wolf, who was in the same carriage, did not have a hint of hesitation with the conversation that she had with Du Lang. He had a rather mild reaction to Du Lang’s perseverance as if everything was a matter of course.

The Cave Wolves Mercenary Group deserved its top spot in the Black City. They had an intelligent and prudent leader, and their members also inherited his principles. All of them would stick to their honor as a mercenary despite a mission’s difficulties and dangers.

Du Lang heroism moved Shen Yanxiao, and in that instant, she sincerely admired that mighty mercenary leader.

The Cave Wolves Mercenary Group might not have been the largest mercenary group, but it was the best one in the Longxuan Empire. All of its members held many credos that the other mercenaries had abandoned. It was because of those principles that an insignificant person could learn to become stronger.

“It is only Mount Kuluo and the demonic beasts that dwelled there. It might be dangerous, but we have the numbers to handle it if the need arises. We have quite a few advanced-level experts too. Furthermore, the clients aren’t exactly weak peasants. If those demonic beasts wanted to attack us, they had better think thrice!” Du Lang snorted. They had more than a thousand men with them. As long as they stayed together, those demonic beasts would not dare to attack them.

“The mercenary group that perished did not fail because of the magical and demonic beasts, but it was caused by their own ignorance of Mount Kuluo. Now that we know that’s where we’re heading, at least we could prepare ourselves, even if this is our last destination,” Du Lang said decisively. Since he knew about the dangers ahead, he could instruct his subordinates to make more preparations.

Du Lang immediately called on a horse-riding mercenary and gave him a few instructions. Then he asked him to pass the message along to the members in the other carriages. Du Lang could finally relax when his fellow mercenary did all that.

He trusted that his brothers would not suffer in the hands of those foolish demonic beasts.

Then, Du Lang decided to get more information about the Phoenix from Shen Yanxiao.

Since she was quite impressed with Du Lang's characteristics, Shen Yanxiao decided to share more relevant information with him. Du Lang was quite surprised by what he had heard, and he looked at her with a more serious expression.

It was just as he had expected. Huo Xiao was definitely not just a simple figure, and he had been right when he invited her along for the mission.

The two people in a conversation forgot about the silent Evil Wolf, who had sat by their side while they talked. When he heard of the information that Shen Yanxiao had revealed, his eyes got as big as saucers.

That little kid...

How did he know so much about the Phoenix?

Furthermore, when he saw how Shen Yanxiao conversed with Du Lang, he had a feeling that the kid was not only thirteen years old. She had such calmness and wisdom, and none of the traces of childishness that a kid should have had!

Chapter 356: Twelfth-ranked Phoenix (1)

Evil Wolf's perception of Shen Yanxiao changed as he listened to her talk. He had assumed that the kid was dead weight, but a few words from her had allowed Du Lang to deduce their next destination. Furthermore, Du Lang had been able to command his brothers to make further preparations. It was hard to measure just how much losses and casualties that they had prevented with that one action.

Evil Wolf no longer treated Shen Yanxiao like a little kid. Instead, he started to pay attention to every single word she said.

The team of more than a thousand men continued to journey to the vast land. As time progressed, they moved further away from the Black City as they went toward the unknown.

The large group of men traveled until they reached a forest. At that point, it was already evening, and the sky had gradually darkened. All the mercenaries left their carriages so that they could camp in front of the forest.

The Cave Wolves Mercenary Group's mercenaries were well-trained, and they started to work as a group. The members responsible for setting up the tents went about their tasks while those who had to prepare food did theirs. Everyone was tired after a long day, but they did not rest. Instead, they immediately went to complete their tasks.

In fifteen minutes, more than twenty tents had been assembled, and one could see bonfires in front of those tents. Iron pots were also set up atop the fires as the delicious aroma wafted from the food inside those pots.

Other mercenary groups still had to fight with their tents. They were famished, but all they could do was to look at the rising smoke at the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group's area as they swallowed their saliva hungrily.

The thirteen people in the client's group had only assembled four tents, and they completed that around the same time as the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group did theirs. Du Lang and the leader in that group glanced at each other's directions and nodded in approval at the speed of how they got things done.

"Oh, god, I'm so exhausted. My bones are about to break from spending an entire day in the carriage. I think it's better to be on the horse." Sleepy Wolf rubbed his aching shoulders and sat near the fire as he waited for the food.

The seven wolves sat together, and Shen Yanxiao followed Du Lang to join them as well.

Except for Evil Wolf, the other five wolves had subconsciously looked at the dead weight in their group.

Evil Wolf, who had been unhappy with the task to babysit the dead weight, had acted strangely as he did not show any sign of dissatisfaction toward Shen Yanxiao. Instead, he took a water bag and passed it to her. "You've traveled for an entire day. Here, have some water."

He sounded awkward, and it seemed like he had also deliberately avoided eye contact with Shen Yanxiao when he passed her the water bag.

Shen Yanxiao smiled at Evil Wolf's expression of goodwill. She could sense the change in his attitude after they had traveled in the same carriage.

When they realized that Evil Wolf was friendly with Shen Yanxiao, the other five wolves immediately had some strange expressions on their faces. Initially, Evil Wolf had been the one with the most objections against that dead weight.

Wild Wolf had the best relationship with Evil Wolf, and so he looked for an opportunity to sit beside him. When he managed to do that, he lowered his voice and carefully asked, "Evil Wolf, what's going on? There's something wrong with how you treated that little kid."

Evil Wolf frowned and shot Wild Wolf a glance before he whispered in a small voice, "Don't ask so many questions. In any case, Huo Xiao is someone that the leader had invited, so don't cause any trouble for him."

Chapter 357: Twelfth-ranked Phoenix (2)

Was the sun about to rise from the west?

Wild Wolf looked at Evil Wolf in surprise. It seemed like Evil Wolf had a 180-degree change in attitude. Wild Wolf could hardly believe what he had heard. Did that guy not complain to them about how the little kid that their leader had invited was nothing but trouble? Why did he change his tune after only a day? He had even asked them not to cause any problem for that dead weight.

What exactly had happened in just one day?

“Huo Xiao? That’s the little kid’s name? Did something happen in that carriage? Why are you behaving so strangely?”

Wild Wolf was still puzzled even after he had thought about it. However, Evil Wolf did not say anything more.

Before they got down from the carriage, Du Lang had told Evil Wolf to keep their conversations a secret. He did not want to bring up the matter before they went on Mount Kuluo as he wanted to prevent the other mercenaries from having any inappropriate thoughts about his guest.

Therefore, no matter how hard Wild Wolf questioned him, Evil Wolf had decisively kept his mouth shut.

The other four wolves also tried to question Evil Wolf about his change of heart, but they had the same result as Wild Wolf, and that was nothing.

Du Lang smiled discreetly when he noticed the change in Evil Wolf’s attitude.

He had arranged for them to be in the same carriage so that Evil Wolf could personally see the contrast in Huo Xiao. He had also deliberately asked Huo Xiao about the Phoenix while they were in the carriage so that Evil Wolf would realize that their little temporary member was not as he seemed.

When he noticed Evil Wolf’s changed attitude, he realized that his arrangements had not been in vain.

Evil Wolf was the protective umbrella that he had arranged for Shen Yanxiao. If Evil Wolf continued to be dissatisfied with her, then he could not guarantee that he would protect her wholeheartedly. Since he had understood the situation with Shan Yanxiao, Du Lang knew that he would not be negligent with his task.

Shen Yanxiao had already guessed Du Lang’s intentions, but she did not say anything about it. In any case, she was not bothered about Evil Wolf’s protection as she had the Vermillion Bird with her.

As the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group began to enjoy their dinner, the other groups had only managed to assemble their tents, and they had only started their bonfires. They could only continue to swallow their own saliva as they smelled the delicious food. Some of their stomachs had even growled.

The leaders of those mercenary groups felt even more ashamed. They had always known that the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group were stronger than them, but that had only been in terms of strength. They had never expected the other differences would be so glaring when all of them gathered together.

The harmonious dynamic between the members of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group far exceeded the other groups, and such naked comparison had embarrassed the other group leaders. Therefore, they

had rushed their subordinates to complete their work as soon as possible to avoid even more humiliation.

When the other mercenaries finally got to eat their piping hot dinner, the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group had already cleaned up after themselves. They had gathered around the bonfires for a casual chat.

The other leaders continued to be ashamed of the speed disparity between their groups and the Cave Wolves Mercenary.

The leaders had even started to discreetly curse the top group's members for the great qualities that they had. All of them were mercenaries, but why were their subordinates like scarecrows when compared to the members from the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group?

They were simply not comparable to them!

Furthermore, the client had also taken note of all the differences between the mercenary groups that they had hired.

Chapter 358: Twelfth-ranked Phoenix (3)

A man in black stood by his leader's side. As he looked at the well-trained members of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group, he said, "I didn't expect to see such a high-quality mercenary group in a small city in the Longxuan Empire."

The Cave Wolves Mercenary Group was like the crane in a flock of ordinary chickens, and that made them seemed exceptionally prominent.

The leader looked at Du Lang, who was having a chat with his six other members, and he narrowed his eyes.

"Du Lang is an extraordinary man. However, it is a pity that he had to stay in a small place like the Black City."

"If so, why don't we accept..."

"Impossible." The leader had rejected the man in black's suggestion even before he could finish his sentence.

"Even though Du Lang is a capable man, he does not have exceptional skills. He is already a leader in a mercenary group, and he would not be content if he were to revert to the status as an ordinary mercenary. As his strength is concerned, he could not even lead a small team in our group." Du Lang had a good temperament and mind, but he lacked the strength that they needed. He was a talented man, but he would not have qualified for their team.

If anyone were to overhear their conversation, they would probably be stunned. The leader had said that Du Lang was not very distinguished as an Advanced Swordsman! Furthermore, Du Lang could not even manage a small team in their group. How terrifying was their team, really?

The man in black pondered about what his leader had said, but he did not continue with that conversation. However, he noticed Shen Yanxiao, who sat by Du Lang's side.

"Du Lang is a smart man, so how could he be so rash to bring a little kid with him? Even though we may have many people here, it is still a joke to bring an incompetent little kid to participate in the mission." Everyone was uncomfortable when they saw that little turnip amid a group of elite mercenaries.

The leader had also noticed Shen Yanxiao's presence. He had already seen her when they were still in the Black City. He was also curious why a smart person like Du Lang would bring that kid along with him.

"Don't worry about him. Not many people would be able to help when the time comes, so just let them be." The leader was not interested in that little kid at all.

The man in black pursed his lips. As he looked at the pitch-black horizon, he turned to the leader and asked, "Leader, do you think we can take down the Phoenix this time?" Even though they had a lot of mercenaries with them, most of them were incompetent. The only ones that they could rely on were those from the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group.

The man in black's words were clearly different than the content of the mission. Even though an eighth-ranked magical beast was powerful, intermediate-level experts could still deal some damages to them. However, he seemed to have filtered everyone else except for the advanced-level experts.

The leader furrowed his eyebrows.

"These groups of people are no match for a twelfth-ranked Phoenix. However, our objective is not the Phoenix, and their roles are only to lure its attention long enough for us to enter its nest."

Shen Yanxiao had been right about the client. The target of the mission was not an eighth-ranked high-level magical beast. Instead, they had to deal with a twelfth-ranked Phoenix, which had the same strength as a mythical beast! Even advanced-level experts could only deal some minor damages to the beast. Those with a skill level below that could not even harm the Phoenix's feathers.

Chapter 359: The Client's Cleverness (1)

Except for the members from the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group, no one else knew that they were not there to fight against an eighth-ranked magical beast. Instead, they were to encounter a twelfth-ranked magical beast that was comparable to a mythical beast.

Those people were still thinking about their future remuneration and the exceptional items that they would find on the Phoenix. They were not aware of the nightmare that awaited them.

A team of more than a thousand mercenaries started their journey early in the morning.

It had been ten days since they set off from the Black City, and everyone's relaxed and joyful emotions had all but disappeared. They did not know where they were headed, and it was as if they had to move forward aimlessly. Their initial joyful feelings had been replaced by gradual uneasiness and confusion.

Some of the leaders tried to consult the client about their destination. If they were to continue the journey without more information about where they were headed, then their subordinates' emotions would be significantly affected.

Unfortunately, the client did not give them a satisfactory reply. He had also reminded them that the mission's destination was to remain a secret, and that had managed to keep their mouths shut.

The mercenaries followed stringent rules. If they had agreed to some conditions before they took up the mission, then they would not have any room for negotiation, no matter the circumstances. If they were to fall out with their client during the mission, then they would also lose the remuneration for that trip. There might even be damages to their reputations too. They had already traveled for ten days, how would they be willing to spend another ten days on a detour without any gains?

As a result, a strange atmosphere enveloped the entire team, and everyone had kept their mouth shut. Their days repeated without any changes as they continued to travel forward.

Of course, the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group was the only exception, as Du Lang had already informed them about the place that they were headed. When they set off that morning, they had already made the necessary preparations for Mount Kuluo.

During their rest at night, the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group members would use a portion of their time for some light training between the members. The other mercenaries could not comprehend their actions, especially after a tiring day of traveling.

Why were they so hardworking? Even though their mission involved a high-level beast, there were more than a thousand mercenaries in their team, and they also had about twenty to thirty advanced-level experts. They could certainly take on an eighth-ranked magical beast.

The members of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group had either been on horseback or sat in a carriage the entire day. Their bodies must have been stiff from the bumps on the road. How did those people still have the energy to train when they had to camp for the night?

Were they humans or beasts?

The other leaders in the group and the client had taken notice of what the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group had done.

In terms of strength, the leaders already knew that their subordinates were inferior to the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group. However, he did not expect those experts to keep training even as they journeyed toward their destination. That made him even more ashamed.

Would the client not despise the other mercenary groups because they looked as if they had been lazy?

Why were they so heartless? They were already powerful, so why did they continue to work that hard? How were the other mercenary groups supposed to survive?

All the leaders of the mercenary groups felt ashamed, and so they immediately ordered their subordinates to train after a short rest so that they would look as if they were 'diligent.'

Chapter 360: The Client's Cleverness (2)

Unfortunately, how could they compare their physique with those from the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group?

They were already drained from an entire day of traveling, and it was finally time for them to rest. Yet, their leader had ordered them to train? That was both unacceptable and intolerable.

The mercenaries who had trained hard at night looked dispirited after only one night as they climbed into their carriages in extreme exhaustion. Their movements were so sluggish it was as if there were no bones in their bodies.

It probably would have been better if they did not train at night!

At least they would still have some spirit and energy during the day if they did not train the night before. The training had taken up the last of their rest time, and they would appear extremely worn out the next day. They looked as if they could not even lift themselves.

The leaders had no choice but to stop all night training when they saw the groups of slow-moving mercenaries. They decided to abandon the thought that they could compete with the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group.

If they had continued with the night training, they would have tortured themselves to death even before they could match their opponent's strength.

Even though the Black City had numerous small and mid-sized groups, it was neither a prosperous nor a large city. Therefore, the general mercenaries there would not have any outstanding skills. Any random mid-sized mercenary groups from other flourishing cities could beat them in seconds. The only group that one would consider an elite team was the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group.

The client and his group of men had taken notice of everyone's performance, and they had only contempt for those weak mercenary groups.

For a place where garbage gathered, they actually had the cheek to consider themselves as mid-sized mercenary groups.

Time went slowly by, and on the twelfth day after their departure from the Black City, most of the leaders finally realized their intended destination.

A vast wilderness and cracked soil on the ground greeted them. Bursts of heat also continued to surge from those cracks.

The team of more than a thousand mercenaries stopped before the wasteland. When they realized where they were, fear flooded all of the leaders—all, except for Du Lang.

They stared at the wasteland in horror. The only green foliage that they could see was in between the high mountain range. The vegetation that covered the mountain also covered their line of sight.

The seemingly ordinary mountain forest was those leaders' nightmare!

Mount Kuluo!

They had not expected their destination to be Mount Kuluo!

It was one of the three places that many mercenary groups had listed as a forbidden area in the Longxuan Empire; it was Mount Kuluo!

All the mercenaries turned deathly white at that moment. They were familiar with the rumors of Mount Kuluo. It was a place where many elite mercenaries had lost their lives. Had that actually been their destination?

“Are you joking? Are you telling me that the Phoenix’s nest is on Mount Kuluo?” One of the leaders could no longer suppress his shock, and he had gone directly to the client. He stared at the client with saucer-wide eyes, and his voice was filled with disbelief.

The client shot an indifferent glance at the agitated leader, and a hint of contempt flashed in his eyes.

“Mount Kuluo is a forbidden area for all mercenaries. I will not follow you in there to suffer the consequences!” Another leader declared his view that instant. They were there to earn some money, but they still needed to be alive so that they could spend it.

Those mercenaries knew that many dangers awaited them on Mount Kuluo. The entire mountain was filled with magical beasts, and they also had to worry about demonic beasts that would ambush them at every opportunity.